

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. The Pazardzhik Prison 2. Internees at Novo Selo, Troyan Okoliya 3. Interrogation Center near Sofia	DATE DISTR.	11 August 1954
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

The Pazardzhik Prison - 1 May 1948 to 14 November 1950

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1. The Pazardzhik prison is located in the center of the town near the post office and the gymnasium. The building, a "T"-shaped construction two stories high in the center section, was probably built during the Turkish occupation. The central part is 30-40 meters long, 20-25 meters wide, and 12 meters high; each of the two 1-story wings are approximately 50 by 15 by 8 meters in size. A tile-covered wall, 5.5 meters high, encloses the prison.
2. There are about 35 cells of various sizes in each of the wings. They have cement floors and are arranged on both sides of a corridor. Each cell has one window and a door containing a small opening. The doors are secured on the outside with a padlock.
3. The main entrance to the building is located on the south side of the central section. Administrative offices and interrogation rooms are located on the first floor of this section. A wooden ladder leads to the corridor of the second floor, where nine or 10 cells on either side of the corridor, as well as the guards' quarters, are situated. Floors here are of wood and the prisoners sleep on mats. There is no central heating, and the prisoners each have two blankets.

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4. Prisoners are taken to washrooms three times a day. During the summer they are given 10 or 15 minutes a day to walk in the north court of the prison. Food consists of various cooked vegetables, and 250 to 300 grams of bread is given with each of the three daily meals. Meat is served with meals only once a week during the winter and once a month during the summer. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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5. The prison is guarded by seven or eight Militiamen at one time. One is posted in the corridor of the first floor of the central section; he is armed with a sub-machine gun. Informant noted that at night there are two guards each in the north and south courtyards. There are probably other guards stationed outside the walls of the prison at night, but informant was not aware of their number or exact positions. [redacted]

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[redacted] during the summer of 1950 there had been a fire at the Pazardzhik prison. One of the inmates of the prison, who apparently was in the good graces of one of the guards, had succeeded in having a duplicate key to his cell made, left the cell, went to the attic, and set fire to a pile of old clothes. However, only the attic of the prison burned. The prisoner was discovered and given a death sentence.

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Internees at Novo Selo, Troyan Okoliya - October 1953

8. For an unspecified time, internees at Novo Selo were not allowed to leave the village without permission. A request could be submitted to the Okoliya Administration at Troyan indicating the internee's reason for travelling, place to be visited, and duration of the visit. Requests to visit the border areas had to be submitted to the Ministry of the Interior in Sofia. [redacted]

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9. A rumor circulating among the internees during October 1953 stated that families could, upon request, be transferred to other parts of Bulgaria. However, areas excluded were the border zones and the cities of Sofia, Burgas, and Plovdiv. [redacted]

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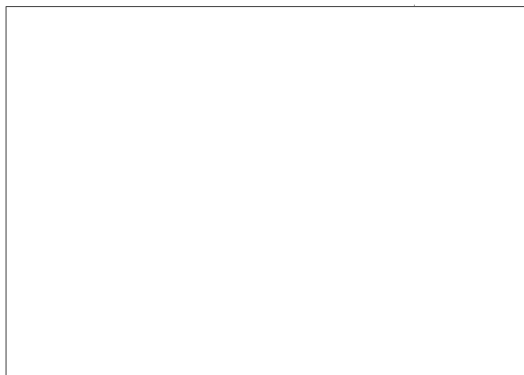
10. Another rumor stated that during October 1953 a group of internees of Turkish descent from a camp near Shumen had returned without permission to their homes in Momchilgrad and Krumovgrad Okolijas. They were arrested at the Momchilgrad railroad station and were returned to the camp. The Turks later sent a delegation to Sofia where they were promised that in the future they would be allowed to change their residence and would be returned eventually to their homes in the border area.

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Interrogation Center near Sofia - October 1951

11.  a building known as "Vilata" (the villa), located about five kilometers northeast of Sofia, housed an unknown number of refugees from Greece, Turkey, and Yugoslavia. The building is a 3-story rectangular structure approximately 40 by 25 by 15 meters in size. A small stream, across which a wooden bridge was constructed to permit entrance to the area, runs along the east side of the building. The entire section is enclosed by a barbed wire fence.

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